

Appl. No. 10/052,384

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Reply to NON-FINAL Office action of May 12, 2003

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Priority. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Parker acknowledged papers submitted by the Applicant under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d). The Applicant thanks Examiner Parker for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

Specification. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Parker objected to the arrangement of the specification. The Applicant has amended the specification herein to obviate this objection to the specification. No new matter was introduced by the amendments to the specification. Withdrawal of the objection of the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Parker objected to and rejected pending claims 1-6 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each objection and rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

A. Examiner Parker objected to pending claims 1-6 for various informalities

The Applicant has cancelled pending claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 1-6. Withdrawal of the objection of claims 1-6 is therefore respectfully requested.

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B. Examiner Parker rejected pending claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention

The Applicant has cancelled pending claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5. Withdrawal of the rejection of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite is therefore respectfully requested.

C. Examiner Parker rejected pending claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,153,263 to *Haruta et al.*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Parker's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-4 and 6 over *Haruta*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Haruta*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of dependent claim 3, all the claim limitations recited in claims 3 must be taught or suggested by *Haruta*. See, MPEP §2143. The Applicant respectfully traverses this obviousness rejection of dependent claim 3, because *Haruta* teaches away from "the first liquid (1) comprises a compound with a head group that bonds to the substrate (10) and a tail that avoids the substrate (10) and repels the second liquid (2)" as recited in dependent claim 3.

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Specifically, Haruta discloses a method for obtaining a high density image on a fiber substrate, and a liquid having a tail that avoids the fiber substrate would unquestionably impede the formation of the high density image on the fiber substrate. To better differentiate the present invention over Haruta, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6 and added new independent claim 12 including the subject matter of cancelled claim 3. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the art of record, particularly Haruta, fails to disclose, teach or suggest "wherein a first solidified portion of the first liquid (1) bonds to the substrate (10)", and "wherein a second solidified portion of the first liquid (1) avoids the substrate (10) and repels the second liquid (2)" as recited in independent claim 12.

The Applicant also respectfully asserts that the art of record, particularly Haruta, fails to disclose, teach or suggest "spraying and solidifying a first liquid (1) on the substrate (10) to form a removable relief pattern (11) for laterally bounding the track (12)", and "spraying and solidifying a second liquid (2) on at least one of the substrate (10) and the removable relief pattern (11) to form the track (12) on the substrate (10) within the removable relief pattern (11)" as recited in new independent claim 7. In particular, Haruta teaches away from a removable relief pattern, because Haruta is directed to obtaining and maintaining a high density image of fiber substrate.

An allowance of new claims 7-15 over the art of record is therefore respectfully requested.

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D. Examiner Parker objected to pending dependent claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

The Applicant has cancelled pending claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of dependent claim 5. Withdrawal of the objection of dependent claim 5 is therefore respectfully requested.

The Applicant has added an independent claim 16 herein that includes allowable subject matter from cancelled claim 5. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests an allowance of independent claim 16 over the art of record.

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SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests Examiner Parker to withdraw the objections and rejections of record, allow new claims 7-16, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Parker is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.


Dated: August 13, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
Michel M. J. Decre, et al.

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